United Nations A/61/1004–S/2007/441

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 July 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 27, 33 49, 50, 51, 55, 69 (a), 98 and 99

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Sport for peace and development

Information and communication technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Globalization and interdependence

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Security Council
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Letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Permanent Representative of the country chairing the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to transmit summary information on the outcomes of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of CIS, which was held in Kazakhstan on 25 April 2007 (see annex I) and the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of CIS, which was held in Ukraine on 25 May 2007 (see annex II).

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I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 27, 33, 49, 50, 51, 55, 69 (a), 98 and 99, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**

Annex I to the letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information on the outcome of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The regular meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held on 25 April 2007 in Astana (the Republic of Kazakhstan).

The official delegations of all 12 Commonwealth member States took part in the meeting. It was chaired by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Marat Mukhanbetkazievich Tazhin.

In the course of the meeting, two documents were agreed and submitted for consideration to the Council of Heads of State and seven documents for consideration to the Council of Heads of Government. A total of 17 items were included on the agenda for the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The participants in the meeting discussed and approved the draft agenda for the regular meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government.

The results of cooperation within the framework of the multi-level consultations among Foreign Ministries in 2006 and the plan for holding them in 2007 were discussed at the meeting. The reports on the activities of the CIS Cultural Cooperation Council and the Inter-State Council on Natural and Man-Made Emergency Situations were considered.

These Councils are some of the most active and effective bodies for sectoral cooperation by CIS member States. The Cultural Cooperation Council conducted 21 meetings, which were held in almost all the CIS member States. At its meetings, the Council considered approximately 300 questions concerning prospects for cooperation in the field of culture and the creation of favourable conditions for developing cultural ties and cultural exchanges.

The Council's further activities are to focus on solving existing problems, including improving the treaty and legal basis for activities, searching for new forms of and mechanisms for cooperation, implementing joint creative projects, holding joint forums, festivals and conferences, developing the joint production of films, and restoring old and establishing new creative links among the Commonwealth States.

The Inter-State Council on Natural and Man-Made Emergency Situations is also working successfully. In the course of its work, the Council has held 20 meetings, at which approximately 480 issues were discussed. The Commonwealth's highest bodies adopted 18 documents at the Council's initiative or with its participation.

Approximately 60 documents were adopted by the Council. Intersectoral cooperation with councils on health care, hydrometeorology and industrial safety

and the Coordination Council on the Problems of Disaster Medicine is being developed.

In accordance with a decision by the Council, since 1998 specialists from the Ministries for Emergency Situations of CIS member States have been trained at the base of the Civil Protection Academy and the Fire Safety Academy of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations. Since 2003, rescue workers have been trained at the base of the Institute for Retraining and Advanced Training under the Belarus Ministry for Emergency Situations.

Three working structures were set up and are in operation under the Council: the CIS Corps of Forces to Eliminate the Consequences of Natural and Man-Made Emergency Situations, which is composed of 363 emergency rescue and special equipment units and 2,052 specialist rescue workers from CIS member States; the Scientific Council on the Problems of Preventing and Eliminating Emergency Situations; and the CIS Agency for the Monitoring and Forecasting of Emergency Situations.

Three draft documents on the agenda were discussed upon the proposal of the Council of Border Troop Commanders.

A draft protocol on approving the regulations on the organization of cooperation by the border and other agencies of CIS member States in providing assistance in the occurrence and for the resolution (elimination) of crisis situations on external borders was adopted. The regulations define the bases for the organization of and a mechanism for cooperation, the procedure for carrying out joint measures and resolving disputes, as well as the legal status of the group.

A draft decision on introducing the "Honourable CIS border guard" lapel badge of the Council of Border Troop Commanders was considered and approved.

The question of the draft decision on approving the regulations on grants from the Council of Border Troop Commanders for auditors and students from the educational institutions of CIS member States' border agencies is also of no small importance. Fifty auditors and students from the higher educational institutions of the border agencies of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have already received such grants (on average, 7 to 10 persons per academic year).

In 2006, 53,000 Russian rubles were awarded to grant recipients, and, for 2007, it is estimated that expenditures for this purpose will amount to 78,000 rubles (nine candidates).

Two agenda items concerned the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPF) in the Commonwealth.

A document was considered and approved, which had been drawn up for the purpose of ensuring the security and protection of the personnel of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in conducting peacekeeping operations in the territories of CIS member States and which provides for a set of measures aimed at maintaining the Forces in a state of combat readiness and creating favourable conditions enabling them to carry out the assigned tasks of their mission as well as strengthening the social and legal protection of the Forces' personnel and the members of their families.

At the same time, the proposal by the Council of Ministers of Defence to extend the mandate of the CPF commander in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, Major General Sergei Jakovlevich Chaban, pending agreement by the Council of Foreign Ministers on the candidacy of the CPF commander in the conflict zone, was not supported by the Georgian party.

A draft decision by the Council of Heads of Government on the establishment of a council of directors of State and public television and radio organizations of CIS member States was also approved at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in order to ensure interaction and cooperation on the part of Commonwealth member States in the area of television and radio broadcasting, the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations among peoples, and the development of a common CIS information space.

At its meeting, the Council of Foreign Ministers considered a draft agreement on the training of personnel for the internal affairs agencies (police) and internal security troops of the CIS member States. The agreement is designed to ensure a high level of personnel training for the internal affairs agencies (police) and internal security troops that meets the challenges and threats of the contemporary world and to create effective mechanisms for cooperation in this area.

The adoption of the decision to grant the Retraining and Advanced Training Institute under the Belarus Ministry for Emergency Situations the status of the basic organization of the CIS member States for training personnel in the prevention and elimination of emergency situations will make it possible to strengthen its status legally in view of the fact that approximately 300 specialists from all CIS States (except Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan) have received retraining and advanced training at the Institute's base since 2003.

The decisions adopted to approve the regulations on the basic organization of the CIS member States for the training and retraining of personnel for the tax (financial) investigation agencies and to grant the Economic Security Academy of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Financial Police Academy of the Kazakhstan Agency for Combating Economic and Corruption-related Crime (the financial police) the status of the basic Commonwealth organizations for the training and retraining of personnel for those agencies will make it possible to train highly qualified specialists in combating economic crimes for the tax (financial) investigation agencies of the CIS member States.

At its meeting, the Council of Foreign Ministers also approved the draft decision on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of the Legal Services Directors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the CIS member States.

In addition, a group of CIS member States adopted a statement on the situation regarding the Soldier-Liberator Monument in Tallinn. The statement expressed profound concern in connection with the plans of the Government of Estonia to transfer the burial site of the soldiers of different nationalities who had given their lives for the liberation of Europe from fascism and to dismantle the Monument. The hope was also expressed that the Government of Estonia would demonstrate a respectful attitude towards history and the memory of the fallen warriors.

Annex II to the letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information on the outcome of the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The regular meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held on 25 May 2007 in Yalta (Ukraine) in the Livadia Palace. The official delegations of all 12 Commonwealth member States took part in the meeting.

Twenty-four documents were adopted at the CIS Council of Heads of Government meeting.

The Agreement on the formation of a common electrical energy market for the CIS member States was one of the major items on the Council's agenda.

The formation of a CIS common electrical energy market will make it possible to increase the volume of trade in electrical energy, ensure the reliability of the electrical energy supply and the quality of service provided to consumers, optimize the use of fuel-energy and hydropower resources in the electrical power industry and harmonize the processes of reforming the electrical energy sector in the Commonwealth States.

The main objective of the set of joint CIS measures considered by the heads of State for preventing the emergence and spread of bird flu in the territories of the CIS member States is to join forces to prevent its emergence and spread there and to minimize the economic damage caused by possible outbreaks of bird flu by means of speedy containment and elimination.

Ensuring security is one of the priority areas for cooperation within the Commonwealth. The Council's agenda included consideration of the question of drawing up draft inter-State programmes of joint measures to combat crime and illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors for the period 2008-2010.

Two agenda items concerned the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPF) in the Commonwealth. Documents were considered and approved which had been drawn up for the purpose of ensuring the security and protection of CPF personnel in conducting peacekeeping operations in the territories of CIS countries and which provide for a set of measures aimed at maintaining the Forces in a state of combat readiness and creating favourable conditions enabling them to carry out the assigned tasks of their mission as well as strengthening the social and legal protection of the Forces' personnel and the members of their families.

The heads of Government also considered a draft agreement on the training of personnel for the internal affairs agencies (police) and internal security troops of the CIS member States. The agreement is designed to ensure a high level of personnel training for the internal affairs agencies (police) and internal security troops that meets the challenges and threats of the contemporary world and to create effective mechanisms for cooperation in this area.

The adoption of the decision to grant the Institute for Retraining and Advanced Training under the Belarus Ministry for Emergency Situations the status of the basic organization of the CIS member States for training personnel in the prevention and elimination of emergency situations will make it possible to strengthen its status legally in view of the fact that approximately 300 specialists from all CIS States (except Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan) have received retraining and advanced training at the Institute's base since 2003.

The decisions adopted to approve the regulations on the basic organization of the CIS member States for the training and retraining of personnel for the tax (financial) investigation agencies and to grant the Economic Security Academy of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Financial Police Academy of the Kazakhstan Agency for Combating Economic and Corruption-related Crime (the financial police) the status of the basic Commonwealth organizations for the training and retraining of personnel for those agencies will make it possible to train highly qualified specialists in combating economic crimes for the tax (financial) investigation agencies of the CIS member States.

The decision adopted on approving the regulations on grants from the Council of Border Troop Commanders for auditors and students from the educational institutions of CIS member States' border agencies is also of no small importance. Fifty auditors and students from the higher educational institutions of the border agencies of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have already received such grants (on average, 7 to 10 persons per academic year).

In 2006, 53,000 Russian rubles were awarded to grant recipients, and, for 2007, it is estimated that expenditures for this purpose will amount to 78,000 rubles (nine candidates).

A draft decision by the Council of Heads of Government on the establishment of a council of directors of State and public television and radio organizations of CIS member States was also approved at the meeting in order to ensure interaction and cooperation on the part of CIS member States in the area of television and radio broadcasting, the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations among peoples, and the development of a common CIS information space.

The Agreement of the CIS member States on cooperation in the area of physical training and sport also relates to the field of humanitarian cooperation. The implementation of its provisions will promote the development of equitable, mutually advantageous cooperation in the field of physical training and sport through the State agencies of the parties, national Olympic committees, national sport federations (alliances and associations), and international, regional and other physical-training and sport organizations and associations and support their initiatives aimed at the effective development of physical training, sport and the Olympic movement.

The question of holding the VII International Sporting Games of the CIS member States in 2008 in Chisinau, placed on the agenda by Moldova, was a further "athletic" agenda item. The initiative received support within the Council of Heads of Government.

The agenda also included a number of items relating to cooperation in the field of education. For example, the draft agreement on cooperation in the field of the

advanced training and professional retraining of specialists provides for granting citizens permanently residing in the territories of the parties equal rights to advanced training and professional retraining and for promoting the development of direct links and the exchange of work experience among educational institutions engaged in the advanced training and professional retraining of specialists.

There has long been a need to take measures to regulate and monitor the quality of educational activities, including the licensing, certification and State accreditation of educational institutions and also the recognition of State documents. Such measures are also provided for in the draft agreement.

Two agenda items relate to the activities of the Inter-State Humanitarian Cooperation Fund of the CIS member States.

Draft documents define the shared participation by States in supporting the Fund's Executive Board as well as a mechanism establishing the level of remuneration of the Fund's Executive Director and the Board's staff.

The Commonwealth heads of Government also took decisions on the dates and venue of their next meeting. The proposal by Turkmenistan to hold the next regular meeting on 22 November 2007 in Ashgabat was adopted.

Ukraine undertook the chairmanship of the Council of Heads of Government in the person of that country's Prime Minister, Victor Fedorovich Janukovich.